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FIRST 5 Santa Clara County Provides Free Arts Programs for Young Children and Their Families

Central, East San Jose/Mayfair residents enjoy Family Literacy Program and children's musical during holiday season

(San Jose, CA) – This weekend, FIRST 5 Santa Clara County sponsored “Fun for Families” Family Literacy Program and the children’s musical “La Posada Magica” at the Mexican Heritage Plaza as part of an ongoing community art enrichment initiative. In collaboration with Mexican Heritage Corporation and Mayfair Improvement Initiative, FIRST 5 Santa Clara County offered nearly 1,500 children and their families free arts activities, in Spanish and English, and linked parents and caregivers to services available to local children ages 0 through 5 and their families.

On Saturday, the “Fun for Families” event featured noted bilingual educator, author and recording artist Jose Luis Orozco reading stories to children in Spanish and English, hands-on arts and crafts activities with a cultural emphasis and carnival games. FIRST 5 Santa Clara County also linked parents and caregivers to information about Santa Clara County’s Healthy Kids Insurance Program and FIRST 5’s *Kit for New Parents*, a comprehensive package of important tips and resource information to help new parents raise children who are healthy and ready to enter school learning.

“FIRST 5 Santa Clara County’s community art events celebrate the diverse cultural heritages and artistic traditions reflected in our local communities,” said Blanca Alvarado, chair of FIRST 5 Santa Clara County. “The events can also help parents get their children ready to reach their greatest potential in school and in life. For example, by reading to young children, parents and caregivers can create a feeling of fun around reading, which is important to future literacy and learning.”

(more)

Teatro Vision presented the children's musical "La Posada Magica" on Sunday, after which guests gathered to watch a Christmas tree lighting and choral performance.

"The brain develops most dramatically in the first years of life. For their health and development during this time, young children depend on rich interactions with adults who give them steady support and offer them stimulating experiences," said Alvarado. "Events like 'Fun for Families' give parents an opportunity to connect with their kids, learn about enriching activities and bring those experiences back home so their children can continue learning."

FIRST 5 Santa Clara County, formerly known as the Children and Families First Commission of Santa Clara County, was established after voters passed Proposition 10 in November 1998, adding a 50 cents-per-pack tax on cigarettes to fund education, health, child care and other programs for expectant parents and children up to age 5.

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